

NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS PLANT NAMED 'FISNICS LIL'

Genus and species of the plant claimed:

Impatiens hawkeri W.Bull (hybrid)

Variety denomination:

5 Fisnics Lil

Background of the Invention

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of *New Guinea Impatiens*, botanically known as *Impatiens hawkeri* W.Bull, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'Fisnics Lil'.

10 'Fisnics Lil' is a product of a planned breeding program and originated from a hybridization made by the inventor, Birgit C. Hofmann, in a controlled breeding program in Hillscheid, Germany, in 2000.

The female parent was the commercial variety 'Logia' (U.S. Plant Patent No. 11,935, under the variety denomination 'Kilogia'), characterized by red-purple flower
15 color, medium green foliage, and roughly medium sized plant habit.

The male parent was the variety 'Celebration Lavender Glow' (U.S. Plant Patent No. 11,652, under the denomination 'Balcelavgo'), having light purple flower color, medium green foliage, relatively small leaves, and medium sized plant habit.

'Fisnics Lil' was discovered and selected as one flowering plant within the
20 progeny of the stated cross by the inventor in April 2001 in a greenhouse in Galdar, Gran Canaria, Spain.

The first act of vegetative or asexual reproduction of 'Fisnics Lil' was accomplished when cuttings were taken from the initial selection in July 2001 in a controlled environment in Galdar, Gran Canaria, Spain, by, or under the supervision of,
25 Birgit Hofmann.

Horticultural examination of plants grown from these cuttings initiated in spring of 2002 in Hillscheid, Germany, and continuing thereafter, has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed for 'Fisnics Lil' are firmly fixed and are retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction.

5 'Fisnics Lil' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary significantly with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity and day length, without, however, any variation in genotype. The following observations, measurements, and comparisons describe plants grown in Hillscheid, Federal Republic of Germany, under greenhouse conditions which
10 approximate those generally used in commercial practice.

Brief Summary of the Invention

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be basic characteristics of 'Fisnics Lil', which in combination distinguish this *Impatiens* as a new and distinct cultivar :

- 15 1. uniform, brilliant purple flower color;
2. large, round flowers on relatively long pedicels;
3. intense medium green foliage, relatively large leaves;
4. medium to tall, round and bushy plant habit;
5. early to medium flowering response; and
- 20 6. suitable both for sale a flowering pot plant and as relatively weather tolerant outdoor plant.

Of the many commercial cultivars known to the inventor, the most similar in comparison to 'Fisnics Lil' are the parental varieties 'Kilogia' and 'Balcelavgo', and the variety 'Papete /Kipete' (U.S. Plant Patent No. 8,457).

In comparison to 'Kilogia', 'Fisnics Lil' has a more bluish hue of flower color, larger flowers, larger leaves, and somewhat stronger stems, while the overall plant size is roughly similar.

5 In comparison to 'Balcelavgo', 'Fisnics Lil' has deeper purple colored and somewhat larger flowers, and larger leaves.

In comparison to 'Kipete', 'Fisnics Lil' has distinctly larger and flatter, not cup-shaped, flowers, similar or somewhat taller plant habit, and leaves with a faintly rippled structure, while those of 'Kipete' are often rugose.

10 Brief Description of the Drawing

The accompanying photographic drawing shows typical flower and foliage characteristics of 'Fisnics Lil' with colors being as true as possible with illustrations of this type. The photograph drawing shows a side view of a typical 'Fisnics Lil' plant.

Detailed Botanical Description

15 In the following description color references are made to the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (RHS). The color values were determined indoors from plants grown in HILLScheid, Federal Republic of Germany, under greenhouse conditions which approximate those generally used in commercial practice.

The description is based on plants which were planted as rooted cuttings in 12 cm
20 pots in late February 2003, and then grown in the greenhouse at a minimum temperature of 16° C. Most observations and measurements were made after the beginning of flowering in mid May, when the plants were about 12 weeks old.

PLANT

General appearance and form :

Plant habit: Medium sized or over, round, bushy, and well-branched;
growth is indeterminate, though weak after flowering begins

Height: 16.8 cm

5 Width: 32.3 cm

Number of branches: 10-12

Length of branches: 13-14 cm

Internode length: 4.5 – 5.5 cm

Diameter of branches 5-7 mm

10 Stem color: Dark red, RHS 185 A

Propagation: Usually terminal tips for cuttings

Rooting: Roots initiate in about 18 days at 22° C, from sticking to
transplanting

Cultivation time: It takes about 10 weeks of growing time to produce a
15 marketable flowering plant in a 12 cm container

Foliage :

Leaf arrangement: Primarily in whorls

Shape of leaf: Elliptic, with acute base and slightly acuminate tip

Surface: Glossy and weakly rippled,

20 Margin: Slightly serrated, ciliated

Leaf length: 12.8 cm

Leaf width: 4.8 cm

Upper surface main color: Medium green, uniform, no variegation
mature leaves darker than RHS 137 A,
25 young leaves RHS 137 D

Veins on upper surface: RHS 185 D or lighter

Lower surface color: RHS 138 B (both young and mature leaves)

Veins on lower surface, color RHS 185 A

Petiole size: 2.5 cm in length, 3-4 mm in diameter

5 Petiole color: Upper side RHS 180 A, lower side RHS 185 A

INFLORESCENCE

Flowering response: About 9 weeks after planting of rooted cuttings

Flowering season: Generally indeterminate, mainly from March to October,
depending on light intensity

10 Flower:

Number of flowers per node: 7-9, in various stages of development

Form of corolla: Single-type, 5 petals

Shape of corolla: Nearly round, with the petals overlapping, almost flat to
very slightly cupped

15 Corolla size:

Average length: 75 mm

Average width: 73 mm

Shape of petals: Cordate, slightly lobed at the apex, the top petal (banner
petal) possibly slightly cupped

20 Top petal: 29 mm long, 54 mm wide

Lateral petals: 33 mm long, 43 mm wide

Lower petals: 33 mm long, 48 mm wide

Texture: Smooth, velvety

Aspect: Mostly flat, the banner petal possibly slightly cupped

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Color (general tonality from a distance of three meters): Uniform, bright purple

Ground color of upper surface: N74 A, no markings

Color of eye zone: Red, RHS 46 B, small

Color of lower surface: N74 A to N74 B

5 Spur color: Reddish-brown, RHS 185 B

Spur shape and size: Downwardly curved, 45-50 mm long, 3 mm in diameter at
the flower end

Pedicel size: 6.0 – 6.5 cm in length, 2 mm in diameter

Pedicel color: Reddish-brown, RHS 185 A

10 Flower bud: 23 mm in length, 14 mm in diameter, color RHS N74 B

Reproductive organs:

Stamens: 5 in number, upper surface color is mainly RHS 66 C

Anthers: Fused, hooded

Pollen: Whitish-yellow, about RHS 8 D

15 Style and stigma: 5 in number, pale yellow, about RHS 150 D

Ovary: 5-celled, 5 mm long, surface color green, RHS 141 C

Disease/Pest Resistance/Susceptibility: No observations to date